Generation of Scrap in Visakhapatnam Steel Project is negligible.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Complaints are received occasionally on unsatisfactory quality of steel supplied. Details of the complaints are not readily available, as no separate Statistics are maintained in this regard, All such complaints are brought to the notice of SAIL for taking necessary remedial measures.

(d) Among the steps being taken to improve the quality of steel material are better raw material preparation, modernisation of steel plants, which envisaged use of secondary refining techniques so as to ensure better quality of steel, improved maintenance of plant and equipment, adoption of better technological and manpower discipline etc. SAIL has also formed a quality division at the Corporate level as well as at the plants. Under the drive, Total Quality Management of Steel is receiving adequate attention. Testing facilities are also receiving attention.

Sharing of River Waters between India and Bangladesh

2290. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to resolve the issue of sharing of river waters between India and Bangladesh;

(b) tha reasons for delay in arriving at a solution;

(c) whether any progress was made in the last round of Indo-Bangladesh talks held for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the tentative date by which the next round of talks is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). An Indo-Bangladesh Secretaries Committee was set up in April, 1990 to work out a broad framework for long-term comprehensive sharing of river waters. The Committee has met five times so far. It has been agreed to give priority for sharing of the flows of Ganga and Tista In the last meeting, the Indian side outlined the proposal for comprehensive sharing of river waters based on a long-term perspective to facilitate their development on a sound basis. The response of Bangladesh side has not been received. It was agreed to establish a Joint observation station on the Indian side near the international border, if feasible, to monitor the flows of the Tista river.

(e) The next round of talks will be held on dates convenient to the two countries.

[*Translation*]

Barren Lands in U.P.

2291. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated area of barren land in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken to make these lands cultivable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN):(a) and (b). In Uttar Pradesh, 10.60 lakh ha. is barren land. Barren lands include exposed steep mountain slopes, snow over and extremely inhospitable arid tracts which cannot be